In the Claims

1. **(currently amended)** An aluminum flake comprising
(A1) a layer consisting of SiO_z,
(B) a layer consisting of aluminum on the layer (A1) and
(A2) a layer consisting of SiO_z on the layer (B), wherein
$0.70 \leq z \leq 2.0$ and the layer thickness of the layers (A1) and (A2) is from 250 to 350 nm .

2. **(original)** An aluminum flake according to claim 1, comprising
(C1) a layer consisting of SiO_2,
(A1) a layer consisting of SiO_y on the layer (C1),
(B) a layer consisting of aluminum on the layer (A1),
(A2) a layer consisting of SiO_y on the layer (B) and
(C2) a layer consisting of SiO_2 on the layer (A2), wherein
$0.95 \leq y \leq 2.0$.

3. **(currently amended)** An aluminum flake comprising
(D1) a layer consisting of SiO_2,
(B) a layer consisting of aluminum on the layer (D1) and
(D2) a layer consisting of SiO_2 on the layer (B), wherein the layer thickness of the SiO_2 layer is from ~~200 to 500 nm~~ 250 to 350 nm.

4. **(previously presented):** An aluminum flake according to claim 1, wherein the layer thickness of the layer (B) consisting of aluminum is from 10 to 100 nm.

5. **(currently amended)** An aluminum flake according to claim 1, wherein the layer thickness of the layers (A1) and (A2) consisting of SiO_z is from ~~200 to 350~~ 250 to 300 nm.

6. **(previously presented)** A pigment based on the aluminum flakes according to claim 1, comprising on the layers (A1) and (A2) or over the entire surface of the aluminum flakes a layer (E) consisting of a dielectric material having a "high" refractive index.

7. **(previously presented)** A pigment based on the aluminum flakes according to claim 1, comprising over the entire surface of the aluminum flakes a layer (F) consisting of from 50 to 95

% by weight carbon, from 5 to 25 % by weight nitrogen and from 0 to 25 % by weight of the elements hydrogen, oxygen and/or sulfur, the percentage by weight data relating to the total weight of the layer (F).

8. **(previously presented)** A pigment according to claim 6, wherein the layer thickness of the layer (E) is from 10 to 150 nm.

9. **(cancelled)**

10. **(previously presented)** A paint, electrostatic coating, in ink-jet printing, cosmetic, coating, printing ink, plastics material, glaze for ceramics and glass, or security printing composition comprising an aluminum flake according to claim 1.

11. **(previously presented)** A paint, electrostatic coating, in ink-jet printing, cosmetic, coating, printing ink, plastics material, glaze for ceramics and glass, or security printing composition comprising a pigment according to claim 6.

12. **(currently amended)** An aluminum flake according to claim 3, wherein the layer thickness of the SiO_2 layers (D1) and (D2) is from ~~200 to 350~~ 250 to 300 nm.

13. **(previously presented)** An aluminum flake according to claim 1, wherein the layer thickness of the layer (B) consisting of aluminum is from 30 to 50 nm.

14. **(previously presented)** An aluminum flake according to claim 3, wherein the layer thickness of the layer (B) consisting of aluminum is from 10 to 100 nm.

15. **(currently amended)** An aluminum flake according to claim 2, wherein the layer thickness of the layers (A1) and (A2) consisting of SiO_y , and the layer thickness of the layers (C1) and (C2) consisting of SiO_2 is from [[200]] 250 to 350 nm.

16. **(previously presented)** A pigment based on the aluminum flakes according to claim 6, wherein the layer (E) consists of TiO_2 or carbon.

17. **(previously presented)** A pigment based on the aluminum flakes according to claim 2, comprising on the layers (A1) and (A2) or on the layers (C1) and (C2) or on the layers (D1) and (D2) or over the entire surface of the aluminum flakes a layer (E) consisting of a dielectric material having a "high" refractive index.

18. **(previously presented)** A pigment based on the aluminum flakes according to claim 2, comprising over the entire surface of the aluminum flakes a layer (F) consisting of from 50 to 95 % by weight carbon, from 5 to 25 % by weight nitrogen and from 0 to 25 % by weight of the elements hydrogen, oxygen and/or sulfur, the percentage by weight data relating to the total weight of the layer (F).

19. **(previously presented)** A pigment according to claim 6, wherein the layer thickness of the layer (E) is from 30 to 70 nm.

20. **(previously presented)** A pigment according to claim 7, wherein the layer thickness of the layer (F) is from 10 to 150 nm.

21. **(previously presented)** A pigment according to claim 7, wherein the layer thickness of the layer (F) is from from 30 to 70 nm.